

APPROVED: Meeting No. 22-83

ATTEST:

*Helen M. Heneghan*

MAYOR AND COUNCIL

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND

MEETING NO. 19-83

May 31, 1983

The Mayor and Council of Rockville, Maryland, convened in work session on Tuesday, May 31, 1983, in the Council Chamber, Rockville City Hall, Maryland at Vinson Street, Rockville, Maryland, at 7:30 p.m.

PRESENT

Mayor John R. Freeland

Councilman Steve Abrams  
(arrived at 7:45 pm)

Councilman Douglas Duncan

Councilwoman Viola Hovsepian

ABSENT

Councilman John Tyner, II

The Mayor in the Chair.

In attendance: City Manager Larry Blick; City Clerk Helen Heneghan

The Mayor and Council continued their review of the fiscal 1984 operating budget.

TRANSPORTATION

Robert Goodin, Director of Public Works, briefed the Mayor and Council on the transportation management objectives, core personnel utilization, risk management, etc. He pointed out the smoothseal cycle being extended from 10 years to 12 years. The Council discussed at length the driver-education program for operators of heavy equipment vehicles.

Traffic Engineering and Transportation Planning

Councilman Abrams asked Mr. Cutro if another study will be done on a traffic light at Talbott and Rockville Pike. Mr. Cutro said it will be done this summer. A lengthy discussion followed by the Council on the necessity of additional assistance for the traffic engineer due to an exceptionally heavy work load. The use of interns and students on a part-time basis was one alternative mentioned. The Mayor and Council agreed to place \$6,000 on the wish list for this assistance.

Mass Transportation

The Council made no changes in this program.

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Street Maintenance

Councilwoman Hovsepian asked if attention had been given to a study she submitted on the potential of recycling asphalt. Mr. Vandrey noted there would be a \$20,000 initial investment for the equipment. The overall cost is not yet known at this time, however, from his investigation he is not sure the City generates enough to recycle although the City uses a good bit of new asphalt. Councilwoman Hovsepian suggested the staff continue to monitor the program at state and county level for any changes.

Street Design and Construction

Councilman Abrams questioned the possibility of opening a road in the Horizon Hill subdivision called Cold Spring Road which directly connects with Montgomery County. Mr. Goodin said this has been looked at by the staff. The Mayor and Council agreed to place \$13,000 on the CIP list for possible road construction.

Traffic Operations

The Council made no changes.

Snow and Ice Control

The Council made no changes. Mr. Goodin noted in answer to the Council's question that the severe storm in February used half of the snow removal budget. Mr. Don Douglass added the cost to the City's equipment which was extensive.

Pedestrian Ways

Councilwoman Hovsepian asked if the City had completed the study on which sidewalk areas should be cleared by the City crews during snow storms for the safety of school children. The City Manager said the intern who was working on that study is now engaged in the rabies control study. Mayor Freeland asked about the brick sidewalk improvements needed in the West End. The City Manager said it could be discussed under historic preservation. Councilman Duncan asked when the curb cuts would be done at Heritage House. Mr. Cutro said that is on the list.

## ENVIRONMENT

Storm Water Management

The Council discussed with the Planning Director the development of the property abutting I-270 and the Hungerford/Stoneridge and North Farm subdivisions. The staff was asked to look into the feasibility of adding residential to that development and the Mayor and Council specifically requested being kept up-to-date.

Historic Preservation

Councilwoman Hovsepian noted the Historic District Commission has requested more staff time. Mr. Davis said it is difficult for the staff to add extra support to the Commission since there are no budgeted funds this year. He then discussed the heavy case load this generated in the Historic Area. It was the consensus of the Council that no change should be made prior to discussion of the Historic Preservation Plan. Mr. Davis gave the Council a briefing on the condition of the sidewalks in the area. The City Manager suggested information could be brought to the Council from the Public Works

Historic Preservation Continued

department after investigation is complete to see if the sidewalks can be repaired or actually need rebuilding. That way it can be decided whether the cost would be funded through the operating budget or the CIP. Mayor Freeland suggested the present level of staff's support continue with no increases in order at this time. Councilman Abrams noted his concern over process cost and said he would be looking to a method of conflict resolution between Historic Preservation and Zoning when Historic Preservation and Zoning are contradictory. Mr. Davis requested \$7,000 on the Council's wish list to cover the cost of surveying to implement the new enclave annexation bill. The Council agreed to this.

Leaf Collection

The Council made no changes.

Right-of-way Maintenance and Beautification

Councilwoman Hovsepian asked that the staff look into the possibility of the business community adopting certain areas and paying to see that they are maintained.

Street Sanitation

The Council made no changes.

Solid Waste Collection and Disposal

Mr. Vandrey briefed the Council on activities on solid waste collection and disposal beginning with the tipping fee charged by the County and the use of their landfill. He went on into the City's operation of its own system. The Mayor and Council asked that the staff continue to look for ways to reduce costs.

Sewage Disposal

The Council made no changes.

Sewage Collection

Councilman Abrams asked if there are still lateral stop ups being experienced. Mr. Sutton said chemical root control has arrested this problem.

Sewage Utilities System Construction

The Council made no changes.

#### HEALTH AND SAFETY

Water Treatment

The Council made no changes.

Utility Billing and Customer Service

Councilman Abrams suggested the labeling be changed from reading "Minium Billing" to "Administrative Charge".

Water Distribution

Councilwoman Hovsepian asked for clarification on the increase in salary cost.

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Water System Construction

Mayor Freeland suggested the wording be changed from "Construction" since it would seem from reading the title that new systems are being built.

Street Lighting

Mr. Cutro briefed the Council on the discussions that are being held on the alternatives for conversion - both with Pepco and private contractors. He said all negotiations should be completed by June 15 but this will cause no change in the budget since the savings that are realized will be put back into conversions to low sodium vapor lighting.

Re: Other Items

Councilwoman Hovsepian asked that money be placed in the budget to continue the social evening held with board chairmen this year. Councilman Abrams asked that money be added to the wish list in the amount of \$60,000 in case the Maryland Municipal League does not do a classification study. The City should pursue it and earmark funds for legal assistance. Mayor Freeland suggested the target of opportunities fund be used for that particular item. Since \$25,000 has already been placed in that fund, \$15,000 could be added to make it total \$40,000. Councilman Duncan suggested funds be earmarked in the CIP wish list for ramp removal on Rt. 355. This figure has been estimated at \$196,000. Councilman Abrams agreed and also suggested that he would be pursuing that through a grant at the State level and also pursuing the possibility of funds to accelerate improvements to F. Scott Fitzgerald Theatre for fly space, etc.

Re: Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Council in work session, the meeting was adjourned at 10:20 p.m. to convene again in work session on Thursday, June 2, 1983, at 7:30 p.m. or at the call of the Mayor.